



NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT DRINKING WATER

SAMPLE RESULTS FOR NAS I, BLDG. 157 and BLDG. 216, HAVE LEVELS OF BROMATE ABOVE DRINKING WATER STANDARDS

Naval Air Station (NAS) Sigonella routinely monitors its water systems for the presence of contaminants. Recently, samples were taken from the NAS I, NAS II, Marinai, and Niscemi water systems. Results from the NAS I "Connections" building (Bldg. 157) and the DoDDS Mid-High Cafeteria (Bldg. 216) indicated bromate levels above 10 micrograms per liter or parts per billion (ppb), which is the maximum contaminant level (MCL) allowed by Italian legislation and the DoD Final Governing Standards (FGS) for Italy. No other locations on any NAS Sigonella site exceeded these standards.

100% transparency and accountability to our public remain our commitment to you. As such, we keep the NAS Sigonella community informed of our water system status and actions to be taken when problems occur.

Quarterly compliance sample results received on March 7, 2016 indicated a level of 12.1 parts per billion (ppb) at a prep sink in the DoDDS Mid-High Cafeteria (Bldg. 216). This is the first time that bromate levels have exceeded the MCL at this location. The building was thoroughly flushed and will be resampled as soon as test bottles arrive from the lab. Flushing is expected to bring the bromate levels back below the MCL. These next results should be returned to us six to eight weeks after they arrive at the lab. The public will be notified once those results are published.

The March 7, 2016 sample results delivered also disclosed again an elevated level of bromate in NAS I Bldg. 157, this time 42.0 ppb. The remainder of the results shows bromate levels were below the MCL at the five other sample locations on NAS I; all seven sample locations on NAS II; both sample locations on Marinai; and the single sample location at Niscemi.

What happened?

This sampling event is a continuation of an investigative study into the root cause of bromate in the drinking water at Bldg. 157. Since the last public notification, additional quality control analyses were conducted to ensure the lab results we are receiving are of the highest quality. The laboratory receiving the samples performed well on each analysis.

The Sigonella community was previously notified of sampling results from the first round of samples where the bromate MCL was exceeded on Jan. 27, 2015, on Facebook and in the Jan. 30, 2015, issue of *The Signature*. During this first quarterly sampling event, the sample taken at Bldg. 157 tested at 34 ppb. In March samples were collected for NAS I, NAS II, Marinai, and Niscemi. Test results received April 2, 2015 showed bromate at 25 ppb for Bldg. 157, which again exceeded the MCL. Test results received June 11, 2015, showed bromate at 43.9 ppb. Test results received August 21, 2015 showed bromate at a maximum concentration of 40.5 ppb in Bldg. 157. Investigative sampling conducted in December 2015 returned a result of 32 ppb at one location within Bldg. 157. The quarterly compliance test results taken

within Bldg. 157 received on January 22nd indicated a bromate level in the building of 7.85 ppb, which is below the MCL. It is common for the levels of bromate to have a small fluctuation over time.

What is being done?

While base leadership and water-quality engineers continue to seek the root cause for the presence of bromate in the water at bldg. 157, to ensure long term viability of the water in this building, leadership is replacing all piping in this building. This effort should complete this Spring. The following additional steps are being performed as well:

- Performing testing to identify bromate cause and, once identified, ensure corrections achieve bromate level reductions below the MCL.
- As the pipes are removed from Bldg. 157 sections will be collected for additional testing.

The DoDDS Mid-High Cafeteria and the nearest hydrant were thoroughly flushed to clear the water lines and the water will be resampled to verify these actions sufficiently reduced bromate levels. Results are expected six to eight weeks after submission and will be reported in a public notice once available.

At present, bromate exceedances in Bldg. 157 are expected to continue until the precise problem can be remediated. Signs remain posted in Bldg. 157 as a continuing reminder of this ongoing issue. The community will continue to be notified with compliance sampling results that exceed maximum contaminant levels. Moreover, we will keep the community informed about the latest developments in our efforts to identify and correct our Bldg. 157 bromate issue. For those interested in learning more about this ongoing issue, NAS Sigonella has a detailed water webpage, which can be found at:

http://www.cnic.navy.mil/regions/cnreurafswa/installations/nas_sigonella/om/environmental_support/bromate.html.

What does this mean?

Some who drink water containing bromate in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer. Bromate at the levels measured in the drinking water does not cause acute symptoms (i.e., stomach cramps, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea). However, bromate is classified by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a probable human carcinogen.

What should I do?

The levels of bromate found do not pose an immediate health risk. At this time, you can continue to drink the water. If the situation changes, you will be notified. Of note, filtration systems will not remove bromate from the water. If you have specific health concerns, consult your health care provider or the U.S. Naval Hospital Sigonella Medical Home Port at +39-095-56-4622.

For more information, please contact:

Rachel Methvin, P.E.
NAS Sigonella Drinking Water Program Manager
NAVFAC PWD Sigonella, Environmental Division
DSN 624-7220
Commercial: +39-095-86-7220
rachel.methvin@eu.navy.mil

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